



*An independent organization of scientists, physicians, engineers and scholars devoted to the protection and advancement of human rights and scientific freedom for colleagues all over the world.*

c/o Sophie Cook  
400 East 85th St., Apt. 10K  
New York, NY 10028  
212-734-0836 tel & fax (phone first)

concernedscientists.org  
sophiecook@earthlink.net

Professor Nguyen Van Minh  
President, Hanoi National University of Education  
136 Xuan Thuy Street, Cau Giay District  
Ha Noi, Vietnam

May 2d, 2014

Dear President Van Minh:

We write now in concern for Ms. Do Thi Thuan (pen name Nha Thuyen) who was awarded a Masters Degree from your university in 2010, after receiving the University's highest possible evaluation from the assessment committee.

Apparently, Ms. Thuan's Masters thesis was later reviewed by another committee, which then revoked her degree in Decisions 667/QD-DHSPHN and 708/QD-DHSPHN, both issued in March 2014. These actions occurred without disclosure to Ms. Thuan or her thesis supervisor and neither of them was presented with any evidence of serious academic error. The University ignored requests from Ms. Thuan and her supervisor for explanation and an opportunity to disagree.

We strongly believe that these actions on the part of the University will seriously harm the reputation of your academic institution. Revocation of a previously earned Masters Degree without following basic principles of due process implies that the decision was based solely on politics and not on academic credentials.

We join the 166 academics in Vietnam and the 100 overseas Vietnamese academics who are signatories of an open letter to Hanoi National University of Education, demanding that the revocation of Ms. Thuan's Masters Degree be reversed. We urge that you honor their demands in the interest of academic freedom and fairness. We also urge you to reinstate Associate Professor Nguyen Thi Binh, who seems to be punished for her association with Ms. Thuan's Degree and has not been accused of any wrongdoing.

Sincerely,

Joel L. Lebowitz, Paul H. Plotz, Walter Reich, Eugene M. Chudnovsky, Alexander Greer  
Co-Chairs, Committee of Concerned Scientists

cc: Dr. Pham Vu Luan, Minister of Education and Training  
49 Dai Co Viet Street  
Ha Noi, Vietnam

**CO-CHAIRS**

Joel L. Lebowitz  
*Rutgers University*  
Paul H. Plotz, M.D.  
*Washington, DC*  
Walter Reich  
*George Washington U.*  
Eugene Chudnovsky  
*Lehman College*  
Alexander Greer  
*Brooklyn College*

**VICE-CHAIRS**

**ASTRONOMY**  
Arno Penzias\*  
*New Enterprise Assoc.*  
**BIOLOGY**  
Max Gottesman  
*Institute of Cancer Research*  
**CHEMISTRY**  
Zafra Lerman  
*MIMSAD, Inc.*  
**COMPUTER SCIENCE**  
Jack Minker  
*University of Maryland*  
**ENGINEERING**  
Philip Sarachik  
*Polytechnic Institute of New York*  
**MATHEMATICS**  
Simon Levin  
*Princeton University*  
**MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
J. Joseph Blum  
*Duke University*  
**PHYSICS**  
Joseph Birman  
*City College of New York*

**NATIONAL SPONSORS**

David Baltimore\*  
*Caltech*  
Allen J. Bard  
*University of Texas*  
Thomas Eisner  
*Cornell University*  
Edward Gerjuoy  
*University of Pittsburgh*

**NATIONAL SPONSORS**

Pierre Hohenberg  
*New York University*  
Kurt Issebacher  
*Mass General Hospital*  
Walter Kohn\*  
*U. of CA, Sta Barbara*  
James Langer  
*Inst. of Theor. Physics, Sta Barbara*  
Benjamin Lax  
*MIT*  
Peter D. Lax  
*New York University*  
Louis Nirenberg  
*New York University*  
John Polanyi\*  
*University of Toronto*  
Stuart Rice  
*University of Chicago*  
Myriam Sarachik  
*City College of New York*  
Harold Scheraga  
*Cornell University*  
Sylvan Schweber  
*Brandeis University*  
Maxine Singer  
*Carnegie Inst. of Washington*  
Alfred I. Tauber  
*Boston University*  
Charles Townes\*  
*U. of California, Berkeley*  
Steven Weinberg\*  
*U. of Texas, Austin*  
Myrna Weissman  
*Columbia University*  
\* Nobel Laureate

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Sophie Cook  
Dorothy Hirsch  
*Executive Director Emerita*